## Lake Carr Lake Vegetation Index Results (8-4-2016)

The Lake Vegetation Index (LVI) is a multimetric index that evaluates how closely a lake's plant community resembles one that would be expected in a condition of minimal human disturbance. It is based on a rapid field assessment of aquatic and wetland plants as indicators of various effects of human disturbance over time. Plants respond to physical disturbances such as introduction of exotic species or lakeshore alterations, and chemical disturbance such as introduction of excess nutrients, particulates, or herbicides from the surrounding land uses.

The LVI method is performed from a boat, and involves dividing a lake into 12 units and identifying plants in 4 of the 12 units (Figure 1). Plants are identified in the selected unit by a visual boat "drive by" and also via a transect approach. The resulting data is used to calculate the LVI and is evaluated according to the scoring system in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Category names, ranges of values for LVI, and example descriptions of biological conditions typically found for that category.

Aquatic life use category	LVI Range	Description
Exceptional	78–100	Nearly every plant present is a species native to Florida, invasive taxa typically not found. About 30% of taxa present are identified as sensitive to disturbance.
Healthy	43–77	About 85% of plant taxa are native to Florida; invasive taxa present. Sensitive taxa have declined to about 15%.
Impaired	0–42	About 70% of plant taxa are native to Florida. Invasive taxa may represent up to 1/3 of total taxa. Less that 10% of the taxa are sensitive.

The Lake Vegetation Index score for Lake Carr was 64, placing the lake's vegetative community in the healthy category.

Sixty two plant species were found during the survey. The native species, fanwort (Cabomba caroliniana), and fragrant waterlily (Nymphaea odorata) were the most dominant plants in the lake. Other native shoreline vegetation included; American sweetgum (Liquidamber styraciflua), buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) and dotted smartweed (Polygonum punctatum). Unfortunately, water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes), torpedo grass (Panicum repens)

Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*) and hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) all listed as Category I Invasive Exotics by the Florida Exotic Pest Control Council <a href="http://www.fleppc.org/">http://www.fleppc.org/</a> are invasive exotics that are a concern in Lake Carr. Another invasive exotic, Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), was a Category II Invasive Exotic found in the lake. Burhead sedge (*Oxycaryum cubense*) was another exotic that is found on the tussocks floating throughout the lake.

For a complete list of plants found during the LVI survey, please see Table 2.

TABLE 2. Scientific and common names of the plants identified during the Lake Carr LVI survey (8-4-16).

Acer rubrum         red maple           Alternanthera philoxeroides(II)         alligator weed           Andropogon sp.         broomsedge           Bacopa caroliniana         lemon bacopa           Bidens laevis         smooth beggartick           Bidens mitis         smallfruit beggartick           Boehmeria cylindrica         false nettle           Brasenia schreberi         watershield           Cabomba caroliniana         fanwort           Cephalanthus occidentalis         buttonbush           Ceratophyllum demersum         coontail           Decodon verticillatus         swamp loosestrife           Diospyros virginiana         common persimmon           Dulichium arundinaceum         three-way sedge           Eichhornia crassipes (I)         water hyacinth           Eleocharis baldwinii         road-grass           Eleocharis equisetoides         jointed spikesedge           Eupatorium capillifolium         dogfennel           Fuirena pumila         dwarf umbrella sedge           Habenaria repens         water spider orchid           Hydrilla verticillata (I)         hydrilla           Hydrolla verticillata (I)         hydrilla           Hydrocotyle sp.         water pennywort           Juncus	Scientific Name	Common Name
Andropogon sp. broomsedge  Bacopa caroliniana lemon bacopa  Bidens laevis smooth beggartick  Bidens mitis smallfruit beggartick  Boehmeria cylindrica false nettle  Brasenia schreberi watershield  Cabomba caroliniana fanwort  Cephalanthus occidentalis buttonbush  Ceratophyllum demersum coontail  Decodon verticillatus swamp loosestrife  Diospyros virginiana common persimmon  Dulichium arundinaceum three-way sedge  Eichhornia crassipes (I) water hyacinth  Eleocharis baldwinii road-grass  Eleocharis equisetoides jointed spikesedge  Eupatorium capillifolium dogfennel  Fuirena pumila dwarf umbrella sedge  Habenaria repens water spider orchid  Hydrilla verticillata (I) hydrilla  Hydrocotyle sp. water pennywort  Juncus marginatus grassleaf rush  Leersia hexandra southern cutgrass  Limnobium spongia frog's bit  Liquidamber styraciflua American sweetgum  Ludwigia arcuata needleleaf ludwigia  Ludwigia sphaerocarpa globe-fruited primrose willow  Ludwigia sphaerocarpa globe-fruited primrose willow  Lycopus rubellus taperleaf water horehound  Mikania scandens climbing hempvine  Myriophyllum pinnatum cutleaf watermilfoil  Nelumbo lutea American lotus  Nuphar sp. spatterdock  Nymphaea odorata fragrant waterlily  Nymphoides aquatica banaa lilly  Oxycaryum cubense	Acer rubrum	red maple
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	Nymphoides aquatica	banana lilly
Panicum hemitomon maidencane		
	Panicum hemitomon	maidencane

Scientific Name	Common Name
Panicum repens(I)	torpedo grass
Polygonum hirsutum	hairy smartweed
Polygonum punctatum	dotted smartweed
Pontederia cordata	pickerelweed
Quercus nigra	water oak
Quercus virginiana	southern live oak
Rhus sp.	sumac
Rhynchospora inundata	narrowfruit horned beaksedge
Rhynchospora nitens	short beaked beaksedge
Sagittaria lancifolia	duck potato
Sagittaria latifolia	broadleaf arrowhead
Salix carolina	coastal plain willow
Sapium sebiferum (I)	Chinese tallow tree
Scirpus cyperinus	woolgrass
Smilax rotundifolia	bullbrier
Triadenum virginicum	marsh st. johnswort
Typha sp.	cattail
Utricularia floridana	Florida yellow bladderwort
Utricularia biflora (U. gibba)	humped bladderwort
Utricularia foliosa	leafy bladderwort
Utricularia inflata	floating bladderwort
Utricularia purpurea	eastern purple bladderwort
Vitis rotundifolia	muscadine
Xyris sp.	yelloweyed grass

I - Category I Invasive Exotics

II - Category II Invasive Exotics

For additional information about the LVI please go to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection webpage;

http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/sas/training/docs/lvi\_primer.pdf. For additional information about exotic Category I and II invasive exotic plants, please go to the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council http://www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm.

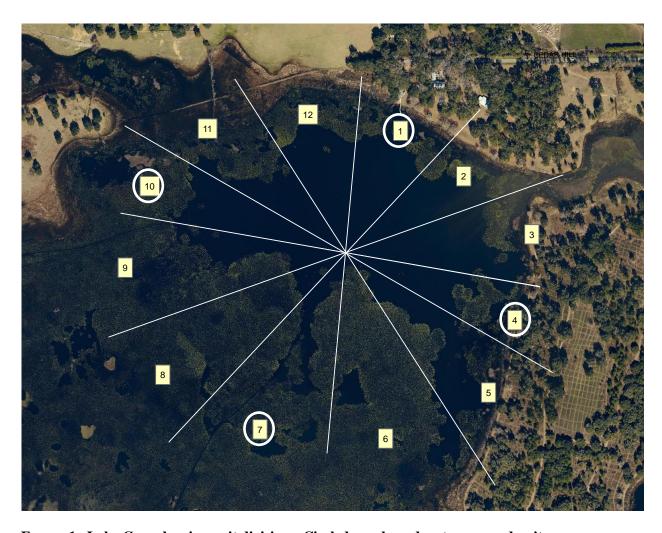


FIGURE 1. Lake Carr showing unit divisions. Circled numbers denote surveyed units.